Statement

Year of recruitment	No. of ITS officers recruited
1979	90
1980	60
1981	100
1982	118
1983	150
1984	150
1985	150
1986	150
1987	175
1988	81
1989	135
1990	136
1991	120
1992	155
1993	99

Extinction of Gharial

4522. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gharial is one among the 600 species of animals and birds facing extinction in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the number of gharials, which was 143 during 1974-77, came down to 60-70 in the year 1982.

(c) if so, their number at present; and

(d) whether Government propose to take any measures to protect this species from extinction and its commercial farming for earning foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Although Gharial (Gavialis gangeticus) it categorised as an endangered species, it is not facing the threat of extinction at present.

(b) and (c) No. Sir. The estimated population of Gharial during 1970 was 75 but in the 1980's their number increased to about 500 distributed in major rivers of U.P., M.P., Orissa and Assam. According to a report of Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun in 1993 the population of Gharials was estimated at about 1500 in the wild and over 450 is captivity.

(d) The Gharial is included under Schedule I Part II of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby receiving highest legal protection under the Act It is also covered by Appendix I of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) which prohibits international trade in the species and its products. There are four centres in the country where breeding of gharials take place for rehabilitation into their natural habitats. Over 3,500 gharials have been released in natural waters so far. There is no proposal for commercial forming of the species for earning foreign exchange.

Loss of forest land

4523. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 1.3 million acres of forest cover is being lost every year in India, despite Central Government's allocation of funds for Wasteland development every year, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 10th March, 1995.

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to deforestation, India's flood prone areas increased from 55.6 million acres in the late 1960s, to 130 million acres by the end of the 80s;

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to make Wastelands development, programme successful in the country, indicating budgetory allocations/ provisions, State-wise, as against the last year and reasons for the slow progress made during 1995-96 in this regard; and

(d) the funds/assistance received from other internal/external agencies for development of Wasteland in the country during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Impact of Chlor Alkaline Plant

4524. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a hazardous Chlor Alkaline plant, which was shut down due to opposition from the environmentalists in Norway, has been shifted to India and is being set up in Vapi, Gujarat;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the plant will be using that most hazardous chemicals and will be manufacturing toxic pesticides; and

(c) if so, the reasons for permitting import of such plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Environmental Impact Assessment Notifications, 1994 requires 29 categories of developmental projects, including chloralkali plants, to obtain an environmental clearance from the Central Government. So far no proposal for such a project has been received.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Centrally aided Environment Projects in Maharashtra and Gujarat

4525. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the Centrally aided projects launched to save environment and forests in Maharashtra and Gujarat during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the achievement made in this regard;

(c) the financial assistance provided in each scheme in each district of Gujarat and Maharashtra; and

(d) the details of the scheme proposed to be launched in the near future in Gujarat and Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH : (a) to (c) The details of Centrally aided Projects launched, to save environment and forests alongwith achievements both financial and physical during the last three years in the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat are given in the Annexure. (*See* Appendix 173. Annexure No. 92) etc.

(d) The projects are continuing in nature.

टैक्साल वृक्षों की सुरक्षा

4526. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव** : क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 13 सितम्बर 1994 के दैनिक "हिन्दुस्तान" में उद्योग वनस्पति" शीर्षक के अन्तर्गत प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है जिसमें यह कहा गया है कि टैक्साल नामक वृक्ष की छाल और पत्तियों